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# MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

# MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FL. 234.



SEPTEMBER, 1962

# Montana Employment Keeps At Good Level

Howard N. Hebert, Commissioner

Wage earners on August payrolls of the state's non-farm employers were estimated at 177,500 according to preliminary figures prepared by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. A gain of 900 is shown both over last month and August of last year. The average August non-farm employment for the past ten years is 174,200. Employment has but 2,300 to go to equal the all-time record of 179,-800 set in August, 1956. Normally, employment in the state is highest during August. Favorable weather conditions and continued active forces in construction, lumbering and logging, and the trade and service industries could bring a higher employment figure during September.

### Four Industries Gain

Good month-to-month gains were noted in four of the eight basic major industry groups. The largest employment in increment was in the trade industries where the peak of summer tourist traffic and the start of back to school buying boosted employment by 600. Employment in manufacturing rose by 500 with all of the gain in the durable goods group. The service industry payrolls were up 300 from July. Construction payrolls were up 200 to a total of 15,500. Employment in all mining, transportation, communications and utilities, and finance, insurance and real estate units remained the same as in July. Government employment declined by 700 with most of the decrease at the local level.

# AUGUST HIRING SHRINKS LABOR RESERVE AS STATE APPROACHES EMPLOYMENT PEAK

Montana's labor market pushed toward the peak of the employment season in August with no really acute shortages of labor and 7,460 job applicants in the labor pool. This was 3,495 fewer jobseekers than in July, but 1,617 more than the average August jobseeker count of the past ten years. During August 4,136 new jobseekers were registered compared with 5,321 in July and a ten year August average of 3,718.

August hiring was scattered over a wide array of industries. Job placements in industry and farm totalled 10,426. The state's industrial employers listed 4,968 job openings with the 22 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service.

## Farm Front Active

A wide array of agricultural activities kept many thousands of farm workers busy during August. Work in the grain fields was nearly done. Upcoming are the sweet corn, potato, sugar beet, and Christmas tree harvests. Some farm labor shortages developed during the month and still exist in a few areas. Inmigration of transient farm workers was below former years.

### Roundup Coal Mine Closes

Ten years ago, three major coal mines were operating in Roundup employing over 300 men. Today, there are none. The announced closure this month of the last major coal mine brought an end to an era. One of the first to go was the Republic Coal Company which closed in 1956 after 47 years of operation. Its closure made a ghost town of the once lively camp of Klein. Other familiar names in the coal industry, the Jeffries Coal Company, and the Bair-Collins Company, are but reminders of the good old days when coal was king. The good old days when coal was king. The goal-fired steam locomotive is a relic of the past. Natural gas and oil have replaced

coal, both in home and industry. The problem is a serious one for the coal miners, who, for the most part, know no other trade. A half dozen or so small truck mines remain in the Roundup area. Many of them are family operations which require little additional help.

### Butte Labor Dispute Over

For the second time since the start of the Butte Teamsters' dispute on July 16, underground mining operations in Butte ground to a halt. The first shutdown lasted nine days until a district court order restrained picketing by the Teamsters. A Montana Supreme Court decision reversed the district court order. The situation remained relatively calm until September 17th when picketing resumed and the mines were closed, idling 2,500. Negotiations between the Teamsters and the Anaconda Company resumed September 19th. Several days later an agreement was reached and the idled workers started to return to their jobs on September 21st. After nine weeks and a wage loss of nearly \$2 million, the Teamsters' dispute was finally over.

# LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

		ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
INDUSTRY	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff			
INDUSTRI	1) Jul 1962	2) Jun 1962	July 1961	July 1962	June 1962	July 1961	July 1962	June 1962	July 1961	July 1962	June 1962	July 1961	July 1962	June 1962	July 1961	
3) All Manufacturing	4.2 4.7 1.8 3.1	7.1 8.6 6.0 3.5	3.8 4.6 6.5 2.1	3.5 3.7 .6 2.9	5.9 7.1 4.4 3.2	2.5 2.9 1.1 1.8	3.8 4.2 3.2 2.9	3.5 3.8 2.4 3.0	3.4 4.0 2.6 2.4	1.9 2.1 1.1 1.4	2.0 2.1 1.5 1.7	1.3 1.3 .8 1.3	1.3 1.2 1.0 1.5	1.0 1.1 .6 .7	1.1 1.3 .5 .7	
All Mining Metal Mining	6.6 4.1	9.8 7.7	7.3 7.9	3.2 1.2	6.5 3.7	2.6 1.1	7.3 8.8	7.0 5.8	4.9 3.6	3.5 3.2	3.0 2.7	1.9 1.5	2.1 3.1	1.6 .7	1.4	

1) Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures revised on more complete returns. 3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

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# Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary Sept. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(557 jobseekers, 45 new, 428 men, 129 women). Over 700 smelter and railroad workers remain idle as a result of Teamster's dispute at Butte. Unrelated mining layoffs in Philipsburg area adds to unemployment list. Trade and service industries starting to feel effects of economy weakened by Butte labor dispute. Farm hiring slow.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Rcd Lodge, Roundup—(1,619 jobseekers, 766 new, 991 men, 628 women). Employment in most industry groups at high levels during August. Work on major construction projects at rapid pace in light of good weather, including \$5 million in highway work, \$½ million sewer project, \$1 million motel, and \$100 million Yellowtail Dam near Hardin. Slight increase noted in trade and service employment as tourist traffic continued and back to school buying began. Start of sweet corn harvest and canning operations gave employment to 60 Indians in the fields and 150 other workers at the cannery. Sugar beet harvest slated to start late September.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(177 jobscekers, 205 new, 67 men, 110 women). Good economic trends prevail in most industries including construction, logging and sawmills, trade and service, and manufacturing. Over \$7 million in highway and building projects in progress. Major sawmill on steady schedule with 115 workers. Trident cement plant building toward full capacity operations. Trade and service trends active.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,376 jobseckers, 187 new, 991 men, 385 women). Unsettled labor dispute between Teamsters and Anaconda Company keeps open pit mining operations closed. Possible shutdown of underground mining and smelter operations seen if dispute prolonged, affecting 6,500. Main street employers trimming payrolls as business slackens. Farm hiring down, but potato harvest to begin in late September.

CUT BANK—(167 jobseekers, 118 new, 112 mcn, 55 women). August job placements totaled 160, with 69 placements in industry and 91 in agriculture. Construction layoffs and in-migration of transients accounted for most new unemployment. City street improvement to start during September; other construction slowing down. Harvest nearly half completed.

DILLON—(44 jobseekers, 71 new, 25 men, 19 women). Labor market activity continues strong both in industry and farm. Variety of construction projects totaling nearly \$9 million, working at good speed.

# LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	1962 Aug.	1962 July	1961 Aug.	1953-62 Aug. Avg.
Industrial Employment	177,500	176,600	176,600	174,200
New Job Applicants	4,136	5,321	3,731	3,718
Job Applicants, End of Month	7,460	10,955	9,759	5,843
Insured Unemployment, Week of	1962 Sept. 9	1962 Aug. 3	1961 Sept. 8	Avg. 1st 1958-62 Sept. Wk.
New and Renewal Claims	451	775	710	755
Unemployed Weeks Filed	2,558	3,041	2,856	3,260
Total Unemployment Claims	3,009	3,816	3,566	4,016

Some major projects working two shifts. Oiling of 8 miles of new highway completed. Trade and service volume at normal levels.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(161 jobseekers, 156 new, 69 men, 92 women). Improved economic conditions over last year reflected in a 50% drop in jobseekers and a 33% cut in the number of unemployment claims from August, 1961. Air base construction employment of 250 expected to remain constant through September. Increased job hiring noted in trade, government, private households and agriculture.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(147 jobseekers, 72 new, 79 men, 68 women). Area construction, including courthouse, high school, two clinics, and highway projects, making pood progress but with only limited hiring. Work of replacing new footings under new bridge spanning Yellowstone River began. Hay and small grain crops best of record.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(921 jobseekers, 749 new, 489 men, 432 women). Hiring in most industries set a steady pace during August, a trend expected to continue through September. Trade, service, and manufacturing industries provided most job orders. Installation work at missile site projects created heavy demand for mechanics, technicians, and other classifications. Over 1,000 workers placed in harvest and other farm activities.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(117 jobseekers, 49 new, 86 men, 31 women). Jobseeker files reduced substantially by withdrawal of many women from the labor market and start of the school term. Lumbering and logging shows brisk activity with double shifts on some projects. New building projects totaling about \$1 million gives added boost. Strawberry, raspberry, and sour cherry harvest yields less than last year.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(75 jobscekers, 66 new, 49 men, 26 women). Industry job placements topped July figures, but showed slight decline from last year. Construction employment rose, but drops in

trade and government employment were evident. Railroad employment fairly steady but no new hires expected. Better crops and a longer harvest season this year made more farm jobs.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(259 jobseekers, 183 new, 155 men, 104 women). Labor market trends generally good but with some early signs of seasonal declines starting to show. Scattered layoffs noted in construction and service industries. Workers in sales, clerical, and lumbering classifications in short supply. Farm labor demand steady but not spectacular.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(487 jobseekers, 401 new 353 men, 134 women). Jobseeker count declined for 4th consecutive month in the face of increased hiring in construction, lumber manufacturing, and service and trade industries. Most unemployed are in semi-skilled and unskilled classifications. Cherry harvest and processing completed; potato harvest to start by October 1.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(67 jobseekers, 95 new, 45 men, 22 women). Labor market trends in industry and farm at good levels. Construction and trade industries led the hiring lines. Construction chiefly concentrated on missile sites and highway projects. Grain harvest produced good yields.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(69 jobseekers, 44 new, 33 men, 36 women). Shortages of workers in lumbering and service classifications continued throughout the month. Construction continued at good pace with no labor shortages. Very little hiring at railroad shops or for outside work. Farm hiring up substantially with bumper hay crop and adequate labor supply.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(96 jobseekers, 86 new, 63 men, 33 women). Economic climate appears considerably brighter than last year. Steadily improving trend evident in trade and service establishments. Completion of most major highway work in area noted, but

# NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)\*

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1954	148.8	147.6	149.4	153,4	158.0	164.1	166.6	167.8	157.1	156.1	160.3	158.0	157.2
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960		152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961	156.9	154.8	156.0	159.5	164.6	172.9	175.2	176.6	174.6	171.6	167.3	164.2	166.2
1962	158.1	158.0	159.0	164.5	170.4	178.2	176.6	177.5**					

<sup>\*</sup>Estimates revised on the basis of more complete and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program. \*\*Preliminary Estimate.

# Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Sept. 1

some new work on September schedule. Farm labor trends better than year ago.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior —(564 jobseekers, 495 new, 345 men, 219 women). Employment totals at near peek as economic conditions improved after settlement of three lengthy labor disputes. Good agenda of heavy and building construction in progress. Lumber manufacturing keeps at good levels, but some letdown evident in woods work. Main street trade and service establishments enjoying in-creased business of good tourist year. Farm labor demands good with most orders for berry pickers and hay hands.

POLSON—(136 jobseekers, 60 new, 91 men, 45 women). Labor market patterns generally at good levels for the fall season. Two major construction projects will soon be completed with no other substantial work in sight. Upcoming in October, the Christmas tree and potato harvests will provide hundreds of temporary jobs.

SHELBY—(155 jobseekers, 93 new, 115 men, 40 women). Job placements up over last month and last year with most worker demands from trade and service units. Completion of new postoffice building idled some construction workers. Construction of warehouse only major project at present. Farm labor demand reduced considerably by poor crop conditions.

SIDNEY—(55 jobseekers, 65 new, 24 men, 31 women). Construction, lagging for over a year, picked up with the start of a telephone building, a REA substation, a school at Lambert, and a service station. Street repair and gas line replacement also on agenda. Brisk demand for cooks and waitresses during month. Sugar beet harvest to start late September.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(78 jobseekers, 38 new, 56 men, 22 women). August labor demand was chiefly for sawmill and logging employment. Construc-tion activity, including highway projects, river bridge, and small building projects, on schedule. Jobseeker count and unemployment claims at seasonal lows. Farm labor demand nil.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(133 jobseekers, 92 new, 58 men, 75 women). Construction lags behind last year with only small building projects on current schedule. Some increased employment at trade units, notably grain elevators, farm implement firms and cafes. Oil field work up with arrival of three oil exploration crews. Good farm labor demand, a trend to continue through September.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 787 selected Montana establishments.
- Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,379 such establishments.
- Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

  Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

# ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL **INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)**

(Compiled in co-operation with Unite	d States	Bureau of	Labor S	itatistics)	
	EM	PLOYME	NT		hange
INDUSTRY	Aug. 1962 (2)	July 1962 (3)	Aug. 1961	July '62 to Aug. '62	Aug. '61 to Aug. '62
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	177,500	176,600	176,600	900	900
Manufacturing	22,500	22,000	21,400	500	1,100
Durable goods	15,200	14,500	13,700	700	1,500
Lumber and timber products Primary metals Other (4)	8,400 3,800 3,000	3,800	3,700	00	
Nondurable goods	7,300	7,500	7,700	_ 200	<del>-</del> 400
Food and kindred products	4,100 1,600 800 800	1,600 800	1,700 900	00	$-\frac{100}{-100}$
Mining	7,000 3,900 800 2,300	3,900 800	4,200 800	00 00	- 300 00
Contract Construction	15,500 3,600 7,200 4,700	3,600 7,100	14,800 3,600 7,400 3,800	00 100	
Transportation and utilities	18,700 8,500 4,300 5,900	8,500 4,400	19,400 8,900 4,300 6,200	00 	- 400 00
Trade	41,500 8,300 33,200 5,900 5,100 8,900 6,200 7,100	8,200 32,700 5,900 5,200 8,700 5,900	32,800 6,100 5,100 8,900 6,000	100 500 00 100 200 300	— 200 400 — 200 00 00 200
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,800	6,800	6,900	00	100
Services and miscellaneous  Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc  Personal services  Other (6)	25,000 3,800 2,100 19,100	3,800 2,100	3,900 2,100	00	- 100 00
Government	40,500 12,700 27,800	12,800	12,200		500
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)  Manufacturing Contract construction Transportation and utilities Trade, wholesale and retail Services and miscellaneous (7) Government	24,800 4,700 3,000 2,100 5,800 5,200 4,000	4,400 3,300 2,100 5,800 5,100	2,200 5,500 4,900	- 300 - 300 00 00 100	$ \begin{array}{c}                                     $
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)  Manufacturing Contract construction Transportation and utilities Trade, wholesale and retail Finance, Insurance, Real Estate. Services and miscellaneous (8) Government	1,500 3,900	3,200 1,800 2,800 7,400 1,500 3,900	3,100 1,900 2,900 7,500 1,500 4,000	- 100 100 100 100 00 00	- 100 - 200 00 00 00 - 100

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership or-

ganizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

- (7) Same as (6) above. Also includes finance, insurance, real estate and mining.
- (8) Same as (8) above. Also includes mining.

# COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN AUG. 1962 AND AUG. 1961

Employment	mployment						Jobseekers in File				Job Placement							UI Claims*	
Service	Aug.	1962	Aug.	1961	Aug.	1962	Aug.		Aug. 1962			Aug. 1961				Wk. 9-7			
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1962	1961	
Anaconda Billings Bozeman Butte Cut Bank Dillon Glasgow Glendive Great Falls Hamilton Havre Ilclena Kalispell Lewistown Livingston Miles City Missoula Polson Shelby Sidney Thomp. Falls Wolf Point	45 7666 205 187 118 71 156 72 749 49 66 183 401 95 44 86 495 60 93 65 38 92	4 154 36 25 51 24 41 10 28 85 51 11 4 16 59 82 71 12	108 851 223 233 110 106 107 61 572 52 93 157 202 86 102 87 282 49 128 42 35 45	12 208 43 56 40 37 16 12 112 8 13 32 22 42 26 21 14 41 41 9 9 45 8	1777 1,3766 144 161 147 921 117 75 259 487 67 67 69 99 564 136 155 78	127 283 27 294 36 9 12 14 151 13 11 72 114 9 10 12 7 7 29 40 7	297 2,337 413 1,197 222 91 317 109 1,410 135 217 445 833 145 161 92 715 101 170 113 89 150	39 416 93 229 32 18 46 20 249 22 30 116 215 35 25 10 141 23 33 18 20 34	844 6822 3077 1119 69 766 1533 1005 7555 103 2600 3433 1644 833 1233 3177 1466 97 1377 500 377	31 1,363 154 14 97 187 153 326 1,048 307 365 75 277 276 72 323 124 146 89 43 2	431 1,803 412 468 335 620		347 706 170 953 222 46 104 71 730 1,198 110 280 770 232 142 119 2,150 83 70 121 45 27	20 1,139 103 27 73 205 34 114 183 546 70 69 53 41 49 354 53 695 51 111 34	913 1,744 180 349 823 273 191 473 2,203 778 181 155 45	1111 3422 566 215 117 127 43 155 342 2322 53 153 207 101 722 50 707 243 39 31 15	535 35 701 25 17 55 15 312 46 49 111 218 30 32 24 202 54 32 32 34	178 682 103 523 36 31 127 39 449 55 106 196 258 71 59 71 268 86 49 31 56	
TOTALS	4,136	819	3,731	812	7,460	1,381	9,759	1,864	4,315	5,619	9,934	2,016	8,696	4,005	12,701	3,285	3,009	3,566	

<sup>\*</sup>Includes 180 claims of the Fed. UC Program 274 same a year ago.

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Average	Weekly :	Earnings	Averag	e Weekly	Hours	Average Hourly Earning			
INDUSTRY	(Aug.(1) 1962	July(2) 1962	Aug. 1961	(Aug.(1) 1962	July(2) 1962	Aug. 1961	Aug.(1) 1962	July(2) 1962	Aug. 1961	
All Manufacturing	\$ 99.06	\$100.19	\$100.94	40.6	40.4	40.7	\$ 2.44	\$ 2.48	\$ 2.48	
Durable goodsPrimary metals	98.17 103.48	99.70 104.28	100.44 104.78	40.4 39.8	40.2 39.8	40.5 40.3	2.43 2.60	2.48 2.62	2.48 2.60	
Nondurable goodsFood and kindred products	104.30 89.73	103.74 85.65	101.84 84.18	42.4 44.2	42.0 42.4	40.9 42.3	2.46 2.03	2.47 2.02	2.49 1.99	
All Mining	118.37	120.06	110.43	43.2	43.5	40.9	2.74	2.76	2.70	
Metal mining	119.85	120.13	114.11	42.5	42.6	41.8	2.82	2.82	2.73	
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	99.36	99.19	101.08							
Transportation (except railroads) Utilities and communications	98.11 100.36	97.55	107.58 96.56	41.3	41.4	40.4	2.43	2.43	2.39	

<sup>(1)</sup> Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

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